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***DARONIA MONTEROSATOI*, A NEW MEDITERRANEAN  
GASTROPOD\*\*\***

KEY WORDS: Gastropoda, Archaeogastropoda, Skeneidae, Mediterranean.

**Summary**

A new recent microscopic shell from the Mediterranean is described as *Daronia monterosatoi*. This species is known as *Fossarus excavatus* MONTEROSATO nom. nud. and *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA, 1877 nom. nud.

**Riassunto**

Viene descritta come *Daronia monterosatoi* una microscopica conchiglia mediterranea. Questa specie è conosciuta come *Fossarus excavatus* MONTEROSATO nom. nud. e *Fossarus monterosati* GRANATA, 1877 nom. nud.

During recent investigations of very small shells originating from shell-grits dredged in various parts of the Mediterranean, both authors independently came across a very small gastropod which could not readily be identified.

One of us (J.J.v.A.) however, discovered the same species in Jeffreys' collection (USNM 186464) where one shell was present. The label with this sample reads: «*Fossarus excavatus*/Palermo, Sicily/MONTEROSATO».

The name *Fossarus excavatus* MONTEROSATO, however, is a nomen nudum as no description or figure was ever published.

Because of preoccupation by *F. excavatus* (C.B. ADAMS, 1852), the name was changed by GRANATA (1877:15) to *Fossarus monterosati*.

As Granata too did not describe nor figure the species, the same *Fossarus monterosati* also must be considered a nomen nudum.

The species under consideration should thus be described as a new one. This description, together with a figure of the holotype is presented here.

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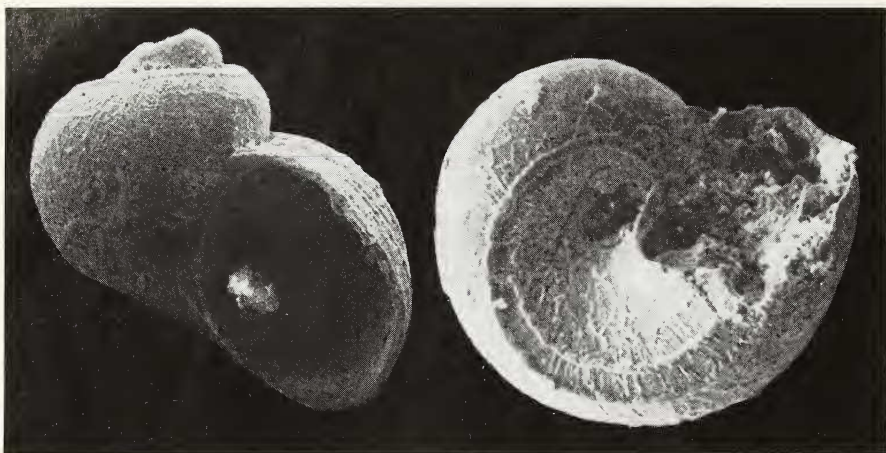


Fig. 1 - *Daronia monterosatoi*, spec. nov., holotype, from Alboran - 160 m, (x65).

Fig. 2 - *Daronia monterosatoi*, paratype, from S.T. Gallura - 120 m (x102).



Fig. 3 - *Daronia monterosatoi*, same specimen as fig. 1. Detail of the protoconch (x258).

*Daronia monterosatoi* spec. nov.

Shell very small, consisting of about 2-2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> whorls in total. The protoconch consists of 1/2 whorl, is smooth and clearly separated from the teleoconch-whorls.

The 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teleoconch - whorls are rather convex, rapidly increasing in size. Growthlines clearly marked and decidedly prosocline. No axial sculpture is present. Some (2-3) spiral ribs are present on the base of the shell; around the top of the whorls, one spiral is developed, giving rise to a somewhat shouldered appearance. There is a clear, rather deep umbilicus. The mouth occupies two-thirds of the total height and is slightly oblong. Columella concave without columellar pad. Inner lip just indicated. Outer lip sharp without varix nor internal teeth.

HEIGHT: 0.6-0.8 mm, Breadth 0.7-0.8 mm.

HOLOTYPE: H.: 0.7 mm, B.: 0.8 mm from Alboran - 160 m. In Museo di Storia Naturale di Livorno.

LOCUS TYPICUS: Central Tyrrhenian sea.

PARATYPES: 1 spec. (USNM 186464) from Palermo/Sicily;

1 spec. (AD 14124A) from the central Tyrrhenian sea;

1 spec. (AD18002) from Bocche di Bonifacio

2 spec. (Bogi colln.) from S.T. Gallura - 120 m.

2 spec. (Bogi colln.) from Alboran - 160 m.

9 spec. (Nofroni and Oliverio colln.) from B. di Bonifacio - 100/200 m.

The new species *Daronia monterosatoi* differs from *Daronia exquisita* (JEFFREYS, 1883) = *D. imperspicua* (CHASTER, 1895) as recently refigured by VAN AARTSEN & CARROZZA (1983) in its smooth, not punctured, shell surface as well as by its spiral ribs on the base of the shell which are entirely absent in *D. exquisita*.

*Daronia monterosatoi* also differs materially from *Megalomphalus azonus* (BRUSINA, 1865) by the lack of both the axial ribs and the fine spiral striae, which characterize that species. Moreover the protoconch of *M. azonus* clearly shows several spiral ridges (see VAN AARTSEN et al., 1984: 107 fig. 55) whereas the protoconch of *Daronia monterosatoi* is perfectly smooth.

As only empty shells were available for study, it was a difficult matter to decide in which genus this new species should be placed. The protoconch, consisting of half a whorl only, points to the Archaeogastropoda, following MOORE (1972: 106).

As recently demonstrated by GHISOTTI (1985) many genera of small, holostomate Gastropoda are ill-defined.

The list of the genera, which GHISOTTI (1985: 64) mentions from the Mediterranean, in our opinion does not contain even one genus to which this new species might belong at first sight. Although ADAM & KNUDSEN (1969:64) apparently place this species in *Megalomphalus* BRUSINA, 1871, we cannot agree with this view for the reasons given above. Neither do we think that the genus *Macromphalina* COSSMAN, 1888 is appropriate, because that genus has a smooth but many-whorled protoconch and a sculpture which resembles that of *Megalomphalus*.

As this new species seems to be rather close to *Daronia exquisita* (JEFFREYS, 1883) and *Daronia unisulcata* (CHASTER, 1897) we tentatively placed it in *Daronia* too, although it does not show the regular rows of pitmarks, so characteristic for the first two species.

Apart from the localities cited with the description above, it seems that this species is only mentioned by SYKES (1925: 191) from the Adventure Bank. No other literature records were found.

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